

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:
  - a generally tubular arch having two ends;
  - a seat mounted to said arch between said ends;
  - a pair of strut assemblies depending downwardly from and weldable to generally opposite ends of said arch, there being a wheel mounted to each of said strut assemblies;
  - a pair of rails mounted to said arch, one rail being mounted on one side of said seat and the other rail being mounted on the other side of said seat, each of said rails extending generally in a longitudinal direction from said arch to a distal end, said distal ends of said rails being adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails;
  - a pair of supports, one support being connected to one of said rails at one end thereof and to one of said strut assemblies at the other end thereof and the other support being connected to the other of said rails at one end thereof and to the other of said strut assemblies at the other end thereof;

wherein the connection between each ~~support~~ strut and the ~~corresponding rail~~ arch is adjustable to allow for substantially longitudinal alignment of said wheels before welding said strut assemblies to said arch .
2. (currently amended). A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:
  - a generally tubular arch having two ends;
  - a seat mounted to said arch between said ends;
  - a pair of strut assemblies depending downwardly from and weldable to generally opposite ends of said arch, each of said strut assemblies for receiving a wheel;
  - a pair of rails mounted to said arch, one rail being mounted on one side of said seat and the other rail being mounted on the other side of said seat, each of said rails extending generally in a longitudinal direction from said arch to a distal end, said distal ends of said rails being adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails;

wherein said arch and said strut assemblies are positioned for substantially longitudinal alignment of said wheels before welding said strut assemblies to said arch.

3. (currently amended) A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:  
a generally tubular arch having two ends;  
a pair of laterally spaced wheels mounted generally at opposite ends of said arch;  
a seat mounted to said arch between said ends and said wheels;  
a pair of rails mounted to said arch and extending forwardly, one of said rails being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat, and the other of said rails being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat, each rail having a proximal portion mounted to the arch and a distal portion pivotally connected to said proximal portion so that said distal portion can pivot toward and away from said horse with respect to said proximal portions;  
each of said distal portions having a distal end adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails.

4. (currently amended) A sulky ~~according to claim 3~~ to be drawn by a horse,  
comprising:  
a generally tubular arch having two ends;  
a pair of laterally spaced wheels mounted generally at opposite ends of said arch;  
a seat mounted to said arch between said ends and said wheels;  
a pair of rails mounted to said arch and extending forwardly, one of said rails being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat, and the other of said rails being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat, each rail having a proximal portion mounted to the arch and a distal portion pivotally connected to said proximal portion so that said distal portion can pivot toward and away from said horse with respect to said proximal portions;  
each of said distal portions having a distal end adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails, wherein said distal end of each distal portion moves over a predetermined lateral range of between about 4 inches and about 4 ½ inches when said distal portion pivots with respect to said proximal portion.

5. (previously amended) A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:  
a pair of laterally spaced wheels mounted generally at opposite ends of a generally tubular arch, there being a longitudinal center line between said pair of wheels;  
a seat mounted to said arch between said ends and said wheels;  
a first rail and a second rail extending from said arch, each rail having a proximal end mounted to said arch and a distal end adapted for harnessing to said horse, said first rail being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat and said second rail being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat;  
wherein a portion of said first rail proximate said arch is angled toward said center line as said portion extends from said arch, and wherein a longitudinal center line between said distal ends is offset from said longitudinal center line between said pair of wheels.
6. (original) A sulky according to claim 5, wherein said portion is angled at an angle of about 15 degrees.
7. (currently amended) A sulky ~~according to claim 5~~ to be drawn by a horse,  
comprising:  
a pair of laterally spaced wheels mounted generally at opposite ends of a generally tubular arch, there being a longitudinal center line between said pair of wheels;  
a seat mounted to said arch between said ends and said wheels;  
a first rail and a second rail extending from said arch, each rail having a proximal end mounted to said arch and a distal end adapted for harnessing to said horse, said first rail being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat and said second rail being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat;  
wherein a portion of said first rail proximate said arch is angled toward said center line as said portion extends from said arch so that a longitudinal center line between said distal ends is offset from said longitudinal center line between said pair of wheels, and

wherein said portion of said first rail proximate to said arch is angled at a first angle toward said center line as said portion extends from said arch and a portion of said second rail proximate said arch is angled at a second ~~angled~~ angle toward said center line as said portion of said second rail extends from said arch, wherein said first angle is larger than said second angle.

8. (original) A sulky according to claim 7, wherein said first angle is about 15 degrees and said second angle is about 5 degrees.

9. (original) A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:

a generally tubular arch having two ends;

a seat mounted to said arch between said ends;

a pair of rails, one rail being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat, the other rail being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat, said rails extending in a generally longitudinal direction from said arch to distal ends, said distal ends of said rails being adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails;

a pair of laterally spaced wheel assemblies mounted generally at opposite ends of said arch;

wherein each of said wheel assemblies includes a wheel having two sides, a set of tubular spokes, a rim, and a pair of substantially planar covers mounted on opposite sides of said wheel and substantially covering said spokes.

10. (original) A wheel assembly for a sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:

a wheel having two sides, a set of tubular spokes, and a rim; and

a pair of substantially planar covers mounted on opposite sides of said wheel and substantially covering said tubular spokes.

11. (original) A wheel assembly according to claim 10, wherein said covers are mounted to said wheel using fasteners.

12. (currently amended) A wheel assembly according to claim 10, wherein said covers are mounted to said wheel using ~~Velcro~~ hook and loop fasteners.

13. (previously presented) A sulky to be drawn by a horse, comprising:  
a generally tubular arch having two ends;  
a pair of laterally spaced wheels mounted generally at opposite ends of said arch;  
a seat mounted to said arch between said ends and said wheels;  
a pair of rails mounted to said arch and extending forwardly, one of said rails being mounted to said arch on one side of said seat, and the other of said rails being mounted to said arch on the other side of said seat, each rail having a proximal portion mounted to the arch and a distal portion pivotally connected to said proximal portion so that said distal portion can pivot with respect to said proximal portions;  
each of said distal portions having a distal end adapted for harnessing said horse between said rails;  
wherein said distal end of each distal portion moves over a predetermined lateral range of between about 4 inches and about 4 ½ inches when said distal portion pivots with respect to said proximal portion.

14. (new) A sulky according to claim 5, wherein a portion of said second rail proximate said arch is angled toward said center line as said portion extends from said arch.

15. (new) A sulky according to claim 14, and each said rail further including a second portion extending forwardly from said angled portion which is generally parallel to said wheel center line, and a second angled portion extending forwardly from said second portion and angled toward said wheel center line, and wherein a stirrup is located on each said second portion behind said second angled portion.

16. (new) A sulky according to claim 14, wherein each of said rails comprise an inwardly angled portion proximate said arch, a generally longitudinal stirrup-holding portion, an inwardly angled intermediate portion, a generally longitudinal guiding portion, an inwardly angled flank portion, and a generally longitudinal harnessing portion.

17. (new) A sulky according to claim 16, further comprising a pair of stirrups, each one of said pair of stirrups being mounted for longitudinal adjustment along a corresponding stirrup-holding portion.